

Attorney Docket No. 240 P 028

INFLATABLE HEATING DEVICE

DESCRIPTION

Related U.S. Patent Application

This is a continuation-in-part of Application No. 08/882,769, filed June 26, 1997, which is a continuation-in-part of Application No. 08/431,302 filed April 28, 1995.

Technical Field

The present invention generally relates to an inflatable heating device and method of forming the device. More particularly, the invention relates to an inflatable heating device which can be inflated by a pressurized fluid and heated via an electrically conductive, non-ferrous matrix within the device's composition. The device can be used to provide compaction and heat sufficient to influence a physical reaction in a material in contact with the device's exterior, such as heating, compressing and curing a hardenable resin used in the in-situ repair of damaged conduits such as underground sewer pipes, and other structures having tubular or other three dimensional curvature.

Background of the Invention

Use of composite materials in the repair of both accessible and inaccessible piping systems is becoming increasingly popular. The costs associated with replacing new conduits may be avoided or at least delayed by carrying out maintenance procedures at the damaged section of an on site or in-situ conduit. Generally, such maintenance procedures entail locating the damaged section and installing a thin, durable material to cover the defects, thus restoring the integrity of the conduit.

The materials and procedures employed in in-situ repair technology have been

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